

Gator Gazette

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND □ 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA □ MARCH 2002



93rd Bomb Squadron: Members return home to families after recent deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom



Gator Gazette

917th Wing
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Front cover photo:
Maj. "Roger", 93rd Bomb Squadron, holds his son at the homecoming celebration at Hoban Hall in January.

917th Wing fights for freedom

Last month we celebrated the return of some of our Wing members from the "forward operating location." Their success is a testament to their patriotism and professionalism.

The members also proved our Wing programs are working. When called upon, we are ready to perform. We can be proud that we have supported their mission, and when called upon to fight, our Wing delivered the iron.

We all know the war is not over. We still have airmen on active duty at bases throughout the world. These individuals have been integrated into active duty units, and in some cases

are working in supervisory positions.

When the reserve signed on for the Air Expeditionary Forces rotations, we expanded our primary role from training for contingencies to training plus undertaking part of the active defense responsibilities. Now that we are in a contingency, many of our people are being asked to serve even more.

While it is impossible to know what the future holds, it is difficult to see the reserve commitment shrinking.

While we keep our deployed airmen in our thoughts, we shall continue to train for our role in the fight for freedom.



Col. Richard Schmidt

Spiritual deprivation can be as bad as sleep deprivation

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bill Willis, Sr.

An expert on sleep deprivation claimed that our society is so sleep deprived that we are a bunch of walking zombies.

Perhaps it is even more important to realize that most of the people in our society are spiritually deprived!

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust

shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15

Other advice can be found in a poem by Roberta Porter.

"A New Way":

Not in frenetic activity

Or in striving

For power or success –

But in returning to our source,

Resting in God,

We find our salvation.

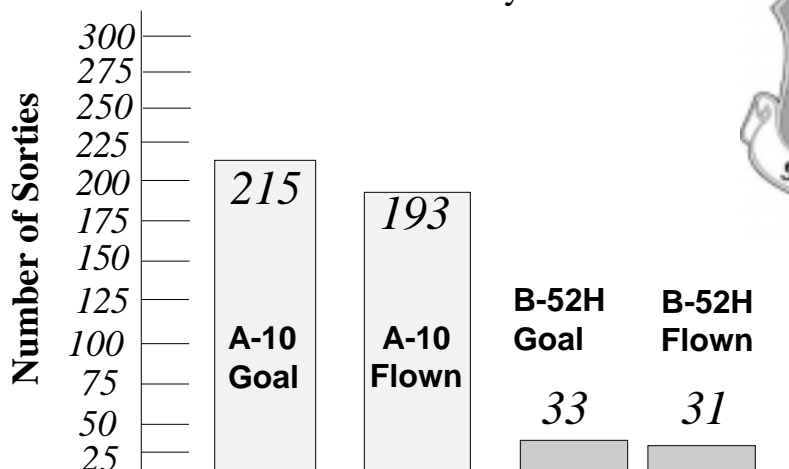
Can we do this?

Can we turn from old roads
And worn paths,
Return to God
And wait?

In our yielding
May we find
The strength for life.
In quiet, daily trust
Of the Lord God
May we know
We have found our way.

917th Wing Sortie Scoreboard

January 2002



A-10 Mission Capable Rate 85.2%

B-52H Mission Capable Rate 76.5%

AFRC Goal 75%

AFRC Goal 65%

917th Maintenance Squadron activation saves \$4 million

By Tech. Sgt. Diana Perusin
Wing Public Affairs

Reservists from the 917th Maintenance Squadron were recently activated in support of the Air Combat Command's B-52 phase operations. Approximately 100 personnel from various career fields were activated in December.

The 2nd Bomb Wing benefits by the reserve activation because 50 percent of the committed inspections are required to be done at home station. The reserve activation frees up active duty personnel to allow for time off and a reduction in workload. The activation also saves the 2 BW in excess of \$4 million that would have been spent to contract a civilian field team to complete the inspections. The B-52 fleet is comprised of Barksdale AFB's 917th Wing and 2 BW and Minot AFB's 5 BW.

"With the active duty members deployed, there are not enough personnel left at Barksdale to keep up with active duty phases due to high operational tempo," said Chief Master Sgt. Larry Sheppelman, maintenance squadron superintendent. "It became a total force effort in the B-52 community. We were unable to commit to producing enough phases without the additional



PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. DIANA PERUSIN

Tech Sgt. Joe Monceaux, 917th Maintenance Squadron aircraft pneudraulic systems mechanic, performs a hydraulic systems check during a B-52 phase inspection.

reservists' help."

Phase inspections are being completed on reserve and active duty B-52s used to support Operation Enduring Freedom. The Wing previously completed ten inspections per year; but now, with the additional manning, they have already increased to almost 50.

Deployed personnel may qualify for tax benefits

By Tech. Sgt. Diana Perusin
Wing Public Affairs

Members serving in combat zones are eligible for tax-exempt pay and for extensions on filing.

The Internal Revenue Service has defined combat zones as, "*any area the President of the United States designates by executive order as an area in which the U.S. Armed Forces are or have engaged in combat.*" Airspace above the area is also treated as if it were a combat zone. All 93rd Bomb Squadron personnel that deployed to the forward operating location are not eligible for tax-exempt status unless they are aircrew.

Members serving outside of the combat zone area but who are deployed in support may qualify.

In plain English...

Officer and enlisted members qualify if:
-They served in combat zone for at least one day of the month.

-Served *outside* of the combat zone but were *deployed* in support of qualifying contingencies and received hazardous duty or imminent danger pay.

-Flew over combat zone areas.

Tax benefits for enlisted members:

-All pay is tax exempt for the entire month.

-Pay for leave accrued while in the combat zone or qualified area is tax exempt.

-A minimum of 180-day tax filing extension.

Tax benefits for officers:

-Pay equal to the highest enlisted rate plus the amount of imminent danger or hazardous duty pay for the entire month, not to exceed \$5,043 per month.

-Pay for leave accrued while in the combat zone or qualified area is tax exempt.

-A minimum of 180-day tax filing extension.

Members who served in the combat zone

during the last part of the year should pay special attention to their W-2. "If you were entitled to combat zone tax exclusion during the last four months of 2001...carefully review your W-2," said Col. Martha Beatty, Air Force Accounting and Finance Office director. "If you feel there are any errors, delay filing your tax return until you contact your local finance office and see if you need a corrected W-2."

The Internal Revenue Service established a telephone number {(866) 562-5227} for military members and their family to call if they have any questions.

The Barksdale Tax Center will process taxes or answer tax questions free of charge. Their hours of operation are Monday - Friday, 9-11 a.m. and 2-4 p.m. For more information, call 2nd Bomb Wing Legal Office at 456-2562.

In the news.....

Family day scheduled for April's UTA

This year's Family Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 in the A-10 hangar. Fun and entertainment will be provided including: bingo, a cake walk and a dunking booth. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. Cost is \$10 for officers and their families, and \$5 for enlisted members.

Come out, bring your family and enjoy a good time with other members of the 917th Wing. For more information, contact Maj. Steve Powell at 456-9016 or Master Sgt. Harry Bauer at 456-9087.

Sign up for the Commander's Cup Golf Tournament in April

One of the activities for the Family Day is the Commander's Cup Golf Tournament at the base golf course. Create your own four-man scramble team, and sign up in the Public Affairs office or the 93rd Bomb Squadron Weapons Flight.

The tournament is a shotgun start at 1 p.m. on April 6. Cost for the tournament is \$23 plus green fees. Green fees and carts have increased at the golf course to: E 1-4/\$7, E 5-7/\$10, E 8 and up /\$14, and civilian/\$21.

For more information, contact Lt. Warren Crabtree at 456-7192, Master Sgt. Greg Steele at 456-8517, or Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio at 456-8145.

Tanzi assumes command of 10th AF

Command of 10th Air Force at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth, Texas, will change hands in a ceremony there March 3.

Director of Plans and Programs at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, will replace Maj. Gen. John A. Bradley as commander. Bradley has commanded 10th Air Force since February 1998, and Tanzi has been the AFRC plans and programs since February 1999.

Volunteers needed for "PYHO"

Do a good deed. Volunteer to paint the house of a local elderly resident in this year's "Paint Your Heart Out" event, May 18. If you are interested in participating, contact Master Sgt. Pat Roberson or Senior Master Sgt. Dan Swannon at 456-8066.

Some frequent flyer rules unchanged

Although Department of Defense military and civilian travelers may now keep for personal use frequent flyer miles and other benefits earned as the result of official, government-paid travel, some rules remain the same.

The rules about being "bumped" from a flight and then receiving a benefit from the airline haven't changed. If you are bumped 'involuntarily,' you are still on the government clock, receiving government travel benefits and per diem. However, any promotional items received belong to the government.

Under the new policy, if travelers voluntarily give up their seats on airliners, they may keep any reimbursements or payments from the carrier for vacating the seats. However, no additional expenses, such as per diem, may be paid as a result of traveler-initiated delays. Travelers may be required to take leave

if the extra time delays their arrival at their primary destinations, and they must pay any extra travel expenses.

On government business, DOD travelers are required by regulation to fly in coach class. Under the new provisions, they may use earned benefits to upgrade their seats. However, this is discouraged for military personnel flying in uniform.

More information is available on the General Services Administration Web site: <http://www.gsa.gov>.

TRICARE benefits improve for called-up reservists

Reservists who are mobilized to support Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom, and are facing out-of-pocket medical expenses, help is on the way! The Department of Defense is covering the cost of medical care under the TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Project.

TRICARE eligibility for the servicemember begins on the effective date of their orders to active duty. Needed care will be provided by uniformed services medical treatment facilities, and by authorized civilian health care providers.

Families of activated reservists become eligible for health care benefits under TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra on the first day of the military sponsor's active duty, if his or her orders are for a period of more than 30 consecutive days of active duty, or if the orders are for an indefinite period.

More information can be found on the TRICARE Web page at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>.

New CCAF catalog has minor changes

The new Community College of the Air Force catalog has changes on 48 degree programs.

Seven degree programs within the following career areas have title changes: Aerospace Physiology, Airport Resource, Food and Nutrition, Personnel, Optometric, Fitness, Recreation and Services and Fabrication and Parachute.

Students currently enrolled in degree programs with the old titles have two options: (1) They may remain in the program until graduation, but must complete it within six years of enrollment date or be automatically enrolled in the new program, provided they still hold the applicable Air Force Specialty Code; or (2) They may submit an Air Force Form 968 to show they changed to the new program. Degree holders with the old titles are ineligible to enroll in the degree program with the new titles.

Three new CCAF academic policies are also effective with the new catalog. They include:

- Use of the professional military education credit in the technical elective areas will be reduced from 12 to six semester hours.

- Individuals who have separated, retired, or been commissioned, and have completed their CCAF degrees prior to their change of status, must petition for degree completion within six years of their separation or retirement date.

- Internship credit values will change for all Air Force enlisted personnel eligible to participate in a CCAF degree program. Internship credit will no longer be awarded for the superintendent level (nine-level). For more information, contact Verendia Sanders at 456-9247.

Reservists needed to attend SNCO Academy

By Senior Airman Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs

The Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy provides professional military education to NCOs for positions of greater responsibility.

"It's the last stepping stone to becoming a senior NCO," said Master Sgt. Pat Roberson, chief of reserve training.

The next SNCOAs will be held from May 1 to June 12, and from July 25 to September 5 at Gunter Annex, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Prior to being promoted to senior master sergeant, reservists must complete SNCOA. This can be done either in-residence or by correspondence. Roberson encourages those that can, attend the course in-residence.

"You get more involved when you go to the course in-residence," said Roberson. "You learn more by sitting in a classroom versus sitting at a computer."

"Attending the course greatly strengthened my ability to be a leader," said Senior Master Sgt. Bennie R. Wilson, 307th RED HORSE Squadron, who recently completed the course.

The selection board receives approximately 300 to 400 packages, according to Roberson. There is a screening process in both the Wing and 10th Air Force prior to going to Air Force Reserve Command, Roberson said. The board meets, and selections are made.

"The selection is based on the application, the photo (showing



COURTESY PHOTO

Master Sgt. Bill Santiago, Air National Guard, and Senior Master Sgts. Bennie Wilson, 307th RED HORSE Squadron, Don Robinson, Air Combat Command, and Damon Wilford, Pacific Air Force, recent graduates of the Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, celebrate Wilson's newly acquired rank.

how the person presents him/herself), and the member's perception of what they will gain by attending the academy," said Roberson.

The next selection board will meet March 31. Anyone interested must turn their package in to Roberson no later than March 1. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Pat Roberson at 456-8066.

917th Wing congratulates first EOD graduate

EOD motto- "Initial success or total failure"



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN SHERRI SAVANT

Staff Sgt. Kyle Waller, explosive ordnance technician, hooks a fiberoptic cable to a remote ordnance neutralization system. Waller is the first graduate in the 917th EOD Flight to complete the Explosive Ordnance Disposal program. The 917th EOD Flight, established approximately three years ago, provides support to 2nd Bomb Wing B-52s and 917th Wing B-52s and A-10 flying operations.

For staff or technical sergeants who have not completed Leadership Development Program courses, the dates for fiscal year '02 are: Class 02-A, dates are June 26-30 (Phase I) and July 10-14 (Phase II). Class 02-B, dates are Sept. 25-29 (Phase I), and Oct. 2-6 (Phase II). For more information, contact Master Sgt. Pat Roberson at 456-8066.

Reservists join 917th Wing

Fourteen new reservists joined the 917th Wing. They will attend the newcomers briefing and then join their respective squadrons.

917th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Michael Devillier, Eros, La.

Staff Sgt. Gary Guthrie, Troup, Texas

917th Medical Squadron

Senior Airman Keith Fry, Fort Worth, Texas

Tech Sgt. Jennifer Woods, Shreveport, La.

917th Logistic Support Squadron

Capt. Richard Mallard, Shreveport, La.

917th Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Shannon Costello, Gloster, La.

Senior Airman Aflorn Holmes, Bonita, La.

Staff Sgt. William Martin, Hughes Springs, Texas

Staff Sgt. David Page, Birmingham, Ala.

Staff Sgt. Terry Tardugno, Bossier City, La.

Senior Airman Matthew Whitaker, Dallas, Texas

93rd Bomb Squadron

Capt. Travis Caughlin, Plano, Texas

Maj. Robin Sandifer, Boerne, Texas



Returning personnel hurry to fill out leave paperwork upon their return from the operating area in a mobility line set up at Hoban Hall.

93rd Bomb Squadron returns from the 'zone'

By a 93rd Bomb Squadron weapons loader

The countries blended together with every fuel stop, but the anticipation of the final landing caused my heart to race. With sweaty palms, I grabbed my bags. I did not understand why I had to wait for the aircraft to come to a complete stop before getting off. The aircraft windows were filled with faces trying to find their loved ones in the waiting crowd. I sat back down to wait my turn when I was unable to get a peek out the window for myself.

As members of the 93rd Bomb Squadron returned in January from a forward operating area in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the ramp was filled with family and friends anxiously awaiting their own personal hero to step from the aircraft.

One hundred and twenty-two days have passed since my departure day, from this same airfield, leaving everything I loved behind. I'll never forget the "I can't believe this is happening" looks on everyone's face as we boarded the C-5 for war. It was much like the look we all had when we walked into our tent hours later, to find nothing but a cot waiting for us.

It was like being a kid going to summer camp for the first time; only you couldn't call your mom to come get you.

In the thirty minutes we were given to pack anything that we may need on that September morning, many of us had forgotten to include pictures and personal items of loved ones we'd left behind. No longer did I have to borrow a picture of my tent

mate's wife. He didn't like that anyway.

After spending so much time together, sometimes we were friends, sometimes enemies, and often each other's closest confidant. I know I'm a better person after the experience. Few people are allowed the opportunity to accomplish what we did and make history at the same time.

I know this experience has changed me in many ways. No longer do I enjoy the television more than a conversation with a familiar voice. The snoring sounds are now like music to my ears compared to the sounds of jet engines at the end of the runway ready for launch.

Even walking through the rain and mud to take a shower began to seem normal. I made the best of the situation by adapting to my new environment. I could look at the cots next to me and know my friends were there; it was good to feel that closeness so far from home.

Things have changed now. Even though I still awake in the middle of the night and look around to see if my friends are safely in their cots, I know that this will pass eventually. My time may be short before my return to the zone, but whatever the future holds for my buddies and me, we will prevail. Our futures depend on it.



Maj. "Bill," 93rd Bomb Squadron Radar after a four-month deployment to the op Freedom.



Two so father's



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Navigator, reunites with his family in January
operating area in support of Operation Enduring



ons, dressed as aircrew members, await their
s return.

FDNY, NYPD decals placed on B-52s in remembrance

**By Senior Airman Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs**

Only thirty minutes remained before their first combat mission was due to begin. The plane engines roared, and the crew waited anxiously in the cockpit. Members of the 93rd Bomb Squadron worked quickly to complete the decals, their tribute to those who lost their lives in the attack on America.

"We were trying to find some way to honor those who had friends or relatives lost in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, or who were members of the New York Fire and Police Departments," said Maj. "Doogie", 93 BS flight commander. "We had two aircraft over there, both of which had recently returned from maintenance, and had no nose art."

During their recent deployment to the forward operating area, members of the 93 BS placed New York Fire and Police Department decals on the nose of Aircraft 1022 and 1008, which were taking part in Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The New York police and firemen were the first casualties of war," said "Doogie." "We were grateful for the opportunity to put their logos on our airplanes."

The idea was approved and the plan put in action, according to "Doogie."

"The commander wanted something to represent the police and firefighters working at Ground Zero," said Tech Sgt. Michael, 93 BS aircraft mechanic. "We put the stencils together quickly, within an hour of mission time."

"Things sped up and the decal was needed much sooner than we expected," said Tech. Sgt. Wes, 93 BS aircraft mechanic. "All we had to work with was a brown paper bag to cut the stencil out of and two cans of paint. It's not like there was a Wal-Mart nearby to get supplies."

In addition to painting the decals, the crew carried a casualty list and flew the American flag during each mission. Tomahawks were also painted on the side of the planes, representing each combat mission flown.

"The words 'We remember' on the nose of the plane will eventually fade away, the rubble at Ground Zero will be cleaned up and hauled away, and the Pentagon will be repaired and restored to the way it was, said Master Sgt. Greg, 93rd Bomb Squadron weapons loader. "But in our hearts, the devastation of Sept. 11 will be with us for a long time if not forever."



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. GREG

Members of the 93rd Bomb Squadron look on as a decal is painted on Aircraft 1022 while in the forward operating area.

Getting promoted-- knowing what it takes



To Airman: 6 months time-in-grade as E-1



To Airman 1st Class: 6 months time-in-grade as E-2, 3-level in primary AFSC, 1 year satisfactory service



To Senior Airman: 3-level in primary AFSC, 8 months time-in-grade, 1 year satisfactory service



To Staff Sergeant: 5-level in AFSC, 12 months time-in-grade, 3 years satisfactory service and completion of Airman Leadership School.



To Technical Sergeant: 7-skill level in AFSC, 18 months time-in-grade, 5 years satisfactory service, vacancy in grade being promoted to



To Master Sergeant: 7-level in AFSC, 24 months time-in-grade, 8 years satisfactory service, assigned to master sergeant slot, completion of NCO academy (in-residence or correspondence)



To Senior Master Sergeant: 7-level in AFSC, 24 months time-in-grade, 11 years satisfactory service, assigned to senior master sergeant slot, completion of Senior NCO Academy (in-residence or correspondence)



To Chief Master Sergeant: 9-level in AFSC, 24 months time-in-grade, 14 years satisfactory service, assigned to command master sergeant slot.



Minimum eligibility requirements for meeting mandatory promotion boards are:

To Grade	Time in Grade
Capt.	2 years
Maj.	7 years
Lt. Col.	7 years
Col.	3 years



Minimum eligibility requirements for meeting Position Vacancy boards are:

To Grade	Time in Grade
Capt.	2 years
Maj.	4 years
Lt. Col.	4 years



Make it a 'point' to keep track

How retirement points are accumulated and easy methods to calculate them

Before reaching the end of an Air Force Reserve career, there are a few things the servicemember needs to know.

To retire, a reservist must have 20 satisfactory service years with the last eight years of qualifying service in Air Force Reserve Command's Unit Program, the Selected Reserve's Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program or the Individual Ready Reserve.

Satisfactory service is defined as 50 points per year to include 15 membership points. These points are centered around a person's year, which begins on one day of one year and ends on the preceding day of the next year. For example, if your retention/retirement year starts July 1, 2002, it ends June 30, 2003.

The 15 membership points are assessed for membership in the Air Force Reserve, whether active or not. They only count toward a good year when included with the 35 participation points. These participation points can be earned through Inactive Duty for Training, Active Duty for Training, Extension

Course Institute courses and all periods of active-duty service.

Reservists earn one point per day for periods of active duty. They also earn two points per IDT day, or drill day, which is broken down into two four-hour periods. Members can also earn varying numbers of points for Extension Course Institute courses depending on the length of the course.

It is important to know there are two different formulas when computing retirement points. If the member joined before Sept. 8, 1980, one formula is used. If they joined on or after that date, another formula applies.

Those who entered the Reserve before Sept. 8, 1980, must calculate their retirement pay based on the highest pay grade in which they satisfactorily served and the pay scale in effect when they retire.

People who entered the military on or after Sept. 8, 1980, have their monthly retirement pay computed using the average of the base monthly pay in effect

for the three years just before they receive retirement pay.

Here are a few formulas that may help:

- Total retirement points divided by 360 equals years of service
- Years of service multiplied by 2.5 equals percentage of base monthly pay that can be drawn for retirement
- Percentage of monthly base pay multiplied by monthly base pay in effect upon retirement equals final pre-tax retirement pay.

Those entering service on or after Sept. 8, 1980, have to make one additional calculation:

- The sum of the monthly base pay for the 36 months before they receive retirement pay, divided by 36, equals the average base pay for the member's previous three years.

Plug this number into the above equation where it states "monthly base pay in effect upon retirement."

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Sandra Alford at 456-7497. (Information taken from AFRC news article.)

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS!

To better serve you, the newspaper staff would like to learn more about what news and information you enjoy most and least in the *Gator Gazette*. Please circle the appropriate answer. We welcome additional comments.



How would you rate the *Gator Gazette's* overall appearance?

- ☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

- ☐ About right
☐ Not enough

Mission-related news

- ☐ Too much
☐ About right
☐ Not enough

News about unit people

- ☐ Too much
☐ About right
☐ Not enough

Family news

- ☐ Too much
☐ About right
☐ Not enough

What do you like most about the *Gator Gazette*?

How often do you read the *Gator Gazette*?

- ☐ Always
☐ Usually
☐ Occasionally
☐ Rarely

How much of the *Gator Gazette* do you read?

- ☐ All of it
☐ More than 50%
☐ Less than 50%
☐ None of it

Do your family members read the *Gator Gazette*?

- ☐ Yes, always
☐ Usually
☐ Occasionally
☐ No, never

The *Gator Gazette's* reading level is:

- ☐ Too difficult
☐ About right
☐ Too simple

Do you believe what you read?

- ☐ Yes, always
☐ Usually
☐ Occasionally
☐ No, never

What about the overall accuracy?

- ☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Fair
☐ Poor

In terms of the quality of stories, how is the *Gator Gazette* at recognizing local people with stories and photos?

- ☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Satisfactory
☐ Below satisfactory
☐ Poor

In terms of the amount of information, how would you rate the *Gator Gazette* as a source of information about the unit? (Check only one response)

- ☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Satisfactory
☐ Below satisfactory
☐ Poor

How would you rate the *Gator Gazette* as a source of information about the topics you think are most important? (Check only one response)

- ☐ Excellent
☐ Good
☐ Satisfactory
☐ Below satisfactory
☐ Poor

Rate the amount of the following types of news:

Air Force news

- ☐ Too much
☐ About right
☐ Not enough

AFRC news

- ☐ Too much

What would you like to see in the *Gator Gazette*?

Additional comments:

Please return this form to 917 WG/PA, Bldg. 6803, Room 229. Thank you!

Voices: In what ways has the increased role of women in combat contributed to the overall effectiveness of the military?



Capt. Janette Williams-Smith
917th Wing Military Equal Opportunity

"It gives the military an edge on addressing conflicts and looking at issues from different points of view."



Tech. Sgt. Marion Hills
93rd Bomb Squadron

"Women are a necessity in some aspects and certain degrees. They do have a role to assume."



Staff Sgt. Carolyn Oliver
917th Medical Squadron

"Women and men work every day side-by-side in both military and civilian jobs. Why not in combat?"



Tech. Sgt. Lonnie Anglin
307th Red Horse Squadron

"I think many women are just as qualified and competent as men are."

March is Women's History month

Their contributions to the nations defense is highlighted

By Senior Airman Sherri Savant
Wing Public Affairs

Over the years, women have assumed many roles in the defense of America's freedom. Today, they make up over 10 percent of the total military force.

During March, Women's History Month, we celebrate the roles and contributions of women in the military. Throughout history, courageous women have paved the way for women's rights in America's fighting force.

"Some women wanted to serve their country so badly they disguised themselves as men," said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught.

In 1778, Deborah Samson of Plymouth, Mass., disguised herself as a man, and served in the company of Capt. Nathan Thayer of Medway, Mass. Her sexual identity went undetected until she came down with a brain fever.

In 1863, during the Civil War, a woman known only as Emily, ran away from home and joined the drum corps of a Michigan Regiment. The regiment was sent to Tennessee. During the struggle for Chattanooga, a minie ball pierced the side of the

young soldier. Her wound was fatal and her sex was disclosed.

During the Spanish-American War, Vaught said, the Daughters of the American Revolution recruited women to work for the Army as contract nurses. "That was a real breakthrough because it was the first time the Army officially included women in a cohesive unit," Vaughn said. "The women did so well the Army decided to form a permanent Army Nurse Corps in 1901, she said. The Navy followed suit in 1908.

Nearly 13,000 women enlisted in the Navy and the Marine Corps on the same status as men. These were the first women in the United States to be officially admitted to full military rank and status.

In May, 1942, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was created. In the spring of 1943, WAACs became the Women's Army Corps. Almost one-half of their peak strength served the Army Air Force, with many assigned to clerical and administrative duties while others worked as topographers, medical specialists, chemists and even aircraft mechanics.

The Women's Armed Services Integration Act, passed in 1948, codified women's

status, giving them rank and a permanent place in the services in wartime and peacetime.

On Nov. 8, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 90-130, which opened women's promotions to general and flag ranks. It also lifted ceilings for other ranks and removed a two-percent ceiling on the number of active duty enlisted women.

As the Vietnam War wound down and the all-volunteer force came along in the early 1970s, women's value to the military came to be recognized more, Vaught said.

More than 40,000 women served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm—the largest single deployment of women in military history.

"It was tough for women in the 1700s, 1800s, 1900s, and it will be tough for women in the next century," Vaught said. "But women proved they could do the job as well as most men. They've gained the respect they've deserved all along."

(Information taken from the Web site: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/August1998/n08121998_9808123.html, and the Web site <http://www.undelate.org/military/timeline1.html>)

917th Wing Training Schedule

March 2-3, 2002

Time	Event	Location
Saturday		
0600	UTA prayer breakfast	Red River Inn Dining
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700-1400	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0730	Physical exam	Base hospital
0730-1000	Body fat measurement	Family practice
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800	Physicals (non-fly)	Base hospital
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227
0930, 1030 & 1330	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1000	Unit deployment managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1100 - 1200	Praise Team rehearsal	MPF Auditorium
1200	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243
1300	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
1500	Wing commander's call	A-10 hangar
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550--LG	1600--MS, CES, MSS 1610--WG
Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800-1000	Dental Class 3 profile reviews	Base dental clinic
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
1430	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550--LG	1600--MS, CES, MSS 1610--WG

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna
Master Sgt. Don Copeland
Tech. Sgt. Gary Johnson
1-800-241-4071

Monroe, La.

318-323-1898

Texarkana, Texas

Staff Sgt. Matt Lucas
903-223-7030

If you are interested in becoming a recruiter, call Chief Master Sgt. Larry Woods, 917th Wing Recruiting at 318-456-9751.

Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed
318-683-0331

Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land
501-987-7188

Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Clark Fitzpatrick
972-681-6384/903-534-8618

SERVICES

Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.
8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)
2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All service

Friday before the UTA

7 a.m. - 6 p.m. All service

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DD93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Friday & Saturday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.

Lunch MS - 11 - 1 47FS - 11:45

WG - 11 MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15

CES - noon SFS - 12:15

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours:

Saturday & Sunday noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

Main UTA Schedule

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Gov. Credit Card Service

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Main UTA - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturday only)

Military clothing issue

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Main UTA Saturday 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m.

Returned airmen say 'Thank you for the support'



Top: Tech Sgt. "J.D.", 93rd Bomb Squadron B-52 bomb navigation systems mechanic, talks to an eighth-grade student from Elm Grove Middle School, Bossier City, La., about what he experienced while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Top Right: Eighth grade students made posters for deployed airmen in support of their efforts overseas. Right: Students anxiously ask questions of Senior Airman Jeremy and Staff Sgt. Ryan, both members of the 20th Bomb Squadron, Barksdale AFB, La. The three airmen went to Ms. Richter's eighth-grade class to show their appreciation for the support they received through posters and letters written by the students during their deployment to the forward operating location.



UTA Schedule

Main

March 2-3
April 6-7
May 4-5
June 8-9
July 13-14
Aug. 3-4
Sept. 7-8
Oct. 5-6
Nov. 2-3
Dec. 7-8

Alternate

March 16-17
April 20-21
May 18-19
No alternate
July 20-21
August 17-18
Sept. 21-22
Oct. 19-20
Nov. 16-17
No alternate

917th Wing
1000 Davis Ave. East
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287

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